

# **USAID/Democratic Republic of the Congo**

## **Annual Report**

**FY 2005**

June 16, 2005

## **Please Note:**

The attached RESULTS INFORMATION is from the FY 2005 Annual Report and was assembled and analyzed by the country or USAID operating unit identified on the cover page.

The Annual Report is a "pre-decisional" USAID document and does not reflect results stemming from formal USAID review(s) of this document.

Related document information can be obtained from:  
USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse  
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 210  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Telephone: (301) 562-0641  
Fax: (301) 588-7787  
Email: [docorder@dec.cdie.org](mailto:docorder@dec.cdie.org)  
Internet: <http://www.dec.org>

Portions released on or after July 1, 2005

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

### Performance:

Social indicators for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are among the worst in the world. Infant and under-five mortality rates are 126 and 213 per 1,000 live births respectively. Maternal mortality in the DRC is the highest in the world, at 1,289 per 100,000 live births. Per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is \$98.65. Life expectancy for men and women is 46 and 51 years respectively. Literacy is 82% for men and 56% for women. Violation of human rights, including the widespread use of rape as a means of subjugation of the population, is a huge problem affecting millions of Congolese citizens, particularly in the east.

The goal of the USAID program in the DRC is to assist the DRC in its transition to a sound democracy with a healthier, better educated population benefiting from improved livelihoods. USAID resources support a wide variety of emergency, transition, and development assistance efforts in support of a people-centered development approach that considers the needs, interests, experiences, and knowledge of both men and women, especially those from disadvantaged groups, and supports the DRC's transition. The USAID program in the DRC is fully integrated into and supportive of the United States Government (USG's) diplomatic efforts to broker peace and stability within the DRC and in the region, and complements the \$200 million annual USG contribution to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operation in the Congo (MONUC). The USG program further supports the global issues of attenuating the HIV/AIDS pandemic, eradicating polio, and protecting tropical forestry and biodiversity in the Congo Basin Region.

Key Achievements. In addition to the results achieved as outlined below, USAID has promoted the establishment of a Central African Trade Hub and a Central African Power Pool for more efficient electric energy generation and transmission. USAID is actively engaged with the GDRC and other major donors in the development of the Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper. Finally, USAID is the first vice-president of the Country Coordinating Mechanism for the Global Fund To Fight Against AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis. With the assistance of USAID, in 2004 the DRC gained access to over \$100 million in new resources to combat these scourges.

Health. Health Care provision in DRC is in crisis. Clinics and hospitals are ill-equipped and strained. A significant percentage of the costs of health care are passed onto the patients or their families, and many people requiring treatment receive none due to a lack of ability to pay. Health is the largest of USAID's programs in the DRC. The USAID program is designed to provide a package of goods and services to assist the health system to reduce morbidity and mortality of women and children. USAID also provides family planning services and supports national health initiatives such as campaigns to fight AIDS and malaria and the global campaign to eradicate polio. USAID provides assistance to approximately 15 million Congolese living primarily in rural areas. In FY 2004, USAID continued to provide assistance to 92 health zones. In the context of this rural based health zone program, family planning services were added to the portfolios of 344 new clinics now serving 1.2 million women of reproductive age. In addition, over 200 clinicians and trainers were trained in the Standard Days Method (SDM) - a modern natural contraceptive - of family planning methodology and socially-marketed SDM kits were provided through 27 clinics. Another achievement included the provision of Insecticide Treated Mosquito nets (ITNs) to 46% of USAID assisted health zones. 175,000 ITNs were distributed. Case management of malaria has improved with 83% of children properly treated for malaria in 2004. USAID's AIDS prevention program demonstrated increasingly important results. Twenty-seven million condoms were sold through social marketing channels in 2004. Six USAID-supported Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) sites worked with 16,000 clients, 13.6% of whom were determined to be HIV-positive. New rapid diagnostic tests were introduced at these VCT sites, and the number of clients returning to learn their results increased from 68% to 89%, a significant and welcome result. USAID-assisted case load of people living with or affected

by HIV/AIDS increased by 2,700 to a new total of 8,000 people assisted in 2004. No cases of polio were reported in the DRC in 2004; indeed there have been no confirmed cases since 2000. A strategically geographically located polio vaccination campaign in northern Equateur (to preclude the entry of polio from the Central African Republic) was mounted with USAID support in May 2004. Coverage rates were 92% and 98% in phases 1 and 2 respectively. A multi-antigen campaign in 169 health zones achieved coverage rates of 85% (polio), 87% (measles), and 96% (tetanus). Overall immunization rates in USAID-assisted health zones are above national averages.

Democracy and Governance (DG). The TG and the reconstituted Senate and National Assembly have made some progress on enacting transition-critical legislation, but the processes are behind schedule. The USAID program concentrates on support to key transitional institutions like the IEC, political party development, legislation critical to the transition, human rights advocacy, and anti-corruption. In 2004 USAID support to the nascent IEC was instrumental in jump-starting the functioning of this key transition structure. USAID was the first donor to provide material support to the commission. Management and financial plans have been developed and a provisional time frame for electoral operations has been adopted. The IEC has begun preparations for the establishment of 9,000 registration sites and training of 36,000 registration officers. In this same vein, USAID's advocacy on the contents of the law establishing the IEC was instrumental to ensuring that the commission's structure was appropriate to the task assigned it by the Transitional Constitution. Progress on the legislative agenda has been less satisfactory. Of the transition-sensitive legislation needed prior to elections, only the laws establishing the IEC, the political parties' law, the Nationality Law, and the Voter Registration Law have been passed. (The Voter Registration Law has not yet been promulgated nor signed by the President.) Conversely, public participation in reviewing and drafting key legislation has improved markedly, due to the efforts of USAID-supported partners. Through its anti-corruption program, USAID decreased the number of illegal and legal taxes and fees levied on western Congo river traffic from over 24 to four, and improved profitability of business operating on the river by 20%.

Livelihoods. The GDP in the DRC grew by 8% in 2005 (annualized rate, year to date). The economy is estimated to total approximately \$7 billion. Government revenue collection increased in 2005 to 10% of GDP, but remains at a critically low level. Social spending has increased, but from a very low base. Security sector expenditures are currently greatly exceeding budget projections, due to the requirement to respond to the unstable security/military situation in the east of the country. Over the course of 2004 the Congolese franc depreciated approximately 20% against the dollar, and inflation is currently calculated to be 9%. These positive trends notwithstanding, most of the country remains mired in economic depression physical isolation and the peace dividend has largely not materialized. Decades of non-investment in infrastructure, corruption, the civil war, the lawlessness that continues to prevail over many parts of the DRC, and the collapse of the Congolese economy have effectively cut most links between farms and agro-processing sites and markets. Agricultural production techniques and inputs have deteriorated over time. Consequently, increased food insecurity and poverty has ensued. To respond to this situation, USAID has adopted a livelihoods promotion approach, which includes agriculture development activities, micro-credit, production and distribution infrastructure rehabilitation and other economic growth activities. These activities have increased agricultural productivity, access to markets and to financial services, and helped meet the critical needs of vulnerable populations. Additionally, community-oriented USAID activities made succeeded in developing methods and approaches that can be applied on a much broader level to harness community resources for economic recovery in the DRC. During 2004, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) developed and multiplied four new cassava varieties that are 100% resistant to cassava mosaic disease. Distribution of this new planning material began in October 2004. An estimated 3,200 women were organized into agricultural credit associations and are receiving training in Katanga. Also in Katanga, distribution of cattle for animal traction to a target audience of 200 farmers began in 2004. Over 20 villages have received training and technical assistance in credit union formation. 25 villages have launched fruit-tree and dwarf palm nurseries in the western DRC. Vetiver technology (an anti-erosion technology) has been disseminated in the western DRC to combat erosion. Roads and bridges serving in excess of 50 villages have been rehabilitated in Bandundu, Equateur, and Katanga provinces. Twenty-five laid-off mining workers received business development kits and training in Katanga province. Additional workers will receive similar assistance in the coming months.

Vulnerable Populations. Since June 2002, 13,000 survivors of rape and sexual violence have been assisted. In FY 2004, USAID supported two international partners to work with a total of 11 local NGOs to provide medical, psychosocial, and socio-economic reinsertion support to victims of rape and sexual violence. Judicial support was also provided when requested by the victim and where appropriate. 8,630 survivors of rape and sexual violence were assisted in FY 2004. USAID's three-year program for the reintegration of separated and abandoned children into their families and the prevention of further separation and abandonment began in 2003. To date, 1,311 children have been reunified with their families, an estimated 70% of whom have remained reunified after six months.

Education. The paucity of the funding allocated to education by the central government over the recent years and the collapse of incomes country-wide occasioned an implosion of the education system. The decline of enrollment and achievement has been catastrophic. Although state funding for education is now increasing, educational outcomes remain disastrous, with only approximately 15% of primary school age girls completing primary school. Since its inception in 2001, the Ambassador's Girls Scholarship program has given 17,342 annual scholarships to 12,824 girls in the DRC, including 100 AIDS-orphaned girls in Matadi and Lubumbashi. USAID launched a radio-based teacher training project in Bas Congo and an internet-based teacher training and outreach program in rural Bandundu. Through these two initiatives, teachers obtained access to the national curriculum for the first time since the late 1980s. 105 teachers were trained in active pedagogy through this program, benefiting 15 schools, and 1,350 students. USAID has redesigned its education activity and the program beginning in 2005 will target 120 schools and over 70,000 primary school students. USAID's investments in education during 2004 through 2006 will benefit primary school students, primarily girls. Teachers will be trained in 120 schools, and didactic materials and aids produced for all teachers and students. The President's African Education Initiative will increase to fund scholarships for over 21,000 girls.

DDR. There is considerable friction within the TG as each of the former belligerents vies for economic and political power, and strives to create a political base for the elections, and as certain belligerents retain military capability. The continued presence of foreign armed forces constitutes a significant irritant to the transition, as does the slow pace of military integration. Approximately 200,000 ex-combatants from all former belligerent factions in the DRC need to be disarmed, demobilized, and reintegrated into society. Failure to achieve this will ensure an unacceptably high level of insecurity in the country, will significantly impair the extension of territorial administration, and effectively preclude free and fair elections in the DRC. USAID's program supports the GDRC overall program and the World Bank's Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program. USAID funds are used for reintegration of demobilized ex-combatants, in advance of availability of funding from the World Bank program. In FY 2004, USAID reintegrated 300 ex-combatants in the eastern part of the DRC, and projects involving over 1,000 in the north of North Kivu are in process. A USAID partner has worked effectively with 50 communities to create the conditions for sustainable return of ex-combatants into the villages. The USAID-funded consultant at the National Demobilization and Reintegration Office (CONADER) was the first external consultant provided to the nascent organization and has been instrumental in ensuring the needed articulation between CONADER and the Ministry of Defense and CONADER and the donor community.

Humanitarian Assistance. USAID's emergency FY 2004 program in the DRC targeted the geographic areas severely affected by the conflict and with the highest mortality and malnutrition rates in the country. In FY 2004, USAID was active primarily in emergency health and nutrition, water and sanitation, food security (including critical markets infrastructure repairs), shelter, and transportation for humanitarian personnel and material. The total FY 2004 budget for such activities was \$22,395,336; this provided an estimated 1 million war-affected people access to health care and enabled them to resume livelihood activities. Specifically, \$10,746,624 was spent on emergency healthcare services and \$5,204,545 on food security. UNICEF was granted \$2,700,000 to maintain its capacity for rapid supply of emergency health kits, nutrition products, water and sanitation equipment, shelter and other non-food items to humanitarian organizations when needed. In addition, USAID provided \$500,000 to the United Nation's Office of Coordination and Humanitarian Affairs for coordination and spent \$3,000,000 on facilitating the transportation of humanitarian workers and non-food items. USAID also contributed food commodities

valued at \$30 million, proving relief to 1.8 million war-affected and displaced people through the World Food Program.

**Transition Assistance.** USAID's transition activities are designed to contribute to a more stable environment for war-torn communities. Specifically, USAID supports the reintegration process between war-affected youth and their host communities and reinforces local, provincial and national awareness to foster community participation on issues key to the transition process. Initiatives include training program composed of vocational training, basic living skills education, and psycho-social assistance; an in-kind small grants mechanism in support of community-driven activities, and a media component to improve access to information, address issues relevant to communities, and include citizens in the political transition.

**Conflict.** Conflict, extreme brutality and human rights violations remain facts of life for millions of Congolese. Although the "formal" armed conflict among the erstwhile internal and external belligerents in the DRC has ended, armed conflict (mostly involving militias, gangs, or individuals) continues at an alarming level in the east of the country. USAID's Conflict Vulnerability Assessment conducted in May-June 2003 identified three areas of vulnerability to conflict; the fragility of the transition process, an opportunity space for conflict entrepreneurs, and the extreme isolation and marginalization of the majority of the population. USAID's DG, DDR, and OTI programs and components of other USAID efforts are calibrated to respond to conflict mitigation and prevention. Conflict has occasioned the temporary evacuation of NGOs from certain areas at certain times and has restricted NGO ability to access certain areas at certain time, restricting the flow of humanitarian assistance.

**Gender Implications.** Gender considerations are fully incorporated into USAID's program from the strategy level through to activity implementation and results monitoring. The plight of female Congolese is particularly intense. In addition to gender indicators mentioned above, the vast majority of the victims of the conflict (3.5 million deaths) have been civilians, primarily women and children. Women are denied access to resources by positive and customary law. Many elements of the former armed militias are female, mostly in involuntary servitude or quasi-slavery status. USAID implements three major activities to achieve gender mainstreaming. They: (1) monitor activities to ensure that gender is operationally mainstreamed; (2) actively promote women at the grassroots, district and national levels to ensure women have the opportunity to participate in civil society and assume leadership positions; and (3) identify activities that can be funded to leverage change to, or practices and removal of, barriers to women's full participation.

**Synergies and Program Integration.** USAID's country strategy to the DRC is an Integrated Strategic Plan (ISP). USAID emergency, transition, and development activities are fully integrated into the ISP. Transitional activities support and complement the DG and DDR Strategic Objectives, and in many areas have broken ground that the development program has later worked. When USAID's emergency program, which responds primarily to the needs of displaced populations, phases down with the return of stability, USAID's Health and Livelihoods programs will provide development assistance in the areas vacated. Funding from the War Victims Fund, the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, the Victims of Torture Fund, the Trafficking in Persons Fund are all functionally integrated into USAID's program efforts. USAID has successfully positioned activities to enhance programmatic synergies. Livelihoods activities are geographically positioned to increase incomes in areas where USAID's health programs and the CARPE environmental protection program are operating. USAID's new education program has been geographically sited to build upon the community mobilization work of its anti-corruption program.

**Challenges.** The major challenge facing USAID in the DRC is an external one. The current situation features a fragile and weak transitional government, continued contests among the former belligerents for political, military, and economic power both within and outside of the TG, and an eastern neighbor with interests that do not necessarily align themselves with peace and stability in the DRC. The challenge facing USAID is two-fold: (1) how to promote the transition with tools directly applicable to these issues, and (2) how to manage the (less intense) instability in other parts of the country where the more traditional development programs are implemented. USAID manages these challenges by working in close collaboration with the United States Embassy and MONUC, in the areas of security, dialogue with

the TG and the officials in the eastern DRC, and taking opportunities as they develop to reduce tensions in the country.

## Results Framework

**660-001 The Congolese people are assisted to solve national, provincial and community problems through participatory processes that involve the public, private**

**660-002 Use of Key Health Services both in USAID-Supported Health Zones and at the National Level Increased**

**IR2.1** Increase availability of key health services and practices

**IR2.2** Improved financial access to key health services

**IR2.3** Enhanced quality of key health services

**IR2.4** Increased awareness and practice of healthy behaviors

**IR2.5** Increased access to key HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation services

**660-003 A Successful Transition To Peace And Democratic Governance Promoted**

**IR3.1** Improved local security and stability through conflict resolution and community development

**IR3.2** Timely implementation of the legal framework required for the political transition, including elections

**IR3.3** Development and strengthening of democratic institutions and basic political processes, including elections

**IR3.4** Increased participation of Congolese society in economic and political decision-making and government reform

**660-004 Livelihoods Improved In Targeted Areas**

**IR4.1** Agricultural productivity increased

**IR4.2** Access to markets along selected corridors improved

**IR4.3** Access to financial services improved

**IR4.4** Critical needs of targeted vulnerable populations met

**660-005 Basic Education, Especially For Girls, Improved In Targeted Areas**

**IR5.1** Improved quality of basic education through innovative teacher training programs

**IR5.2** Improved community participation in basic education

**IR5.3** Increased access, retention, and achievement, particularly for girls

**660-006 Ex-Combatant Reintegration Into Communities Fostered**

**IR6.1** A comprehensive, accepted, dynamic and operational national plan for DDR in place

**IR6.2** Social, economic, and political conditions exist in communities to enable the sustainable return of ex-combatants

**IR6.3** Ex-combatants prepared to return to civilian life